

● COMPLETED

# Mandatory Outline as Basis for Applications for a Centre for Sustainable Area and Nature Use

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Financial scheme: Project Outline

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Project outline for: Centre for Sustainable Area and Nature Use

Application deadline: 11 June 2025, 13:00 CEST

Relevant thematic areas for this call: Cross-cutting topics

Target groups: Research organisations

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## Important dates

**11 Jun 2025: Application deadline for outline**

**August 2025: Feedback will be given as soon as possible and no later than the end of August**

**12 Nov 2025: Application deadline for main call – Centre for Sustainable Area and Nature Use**

**March 2026: Decision main application**

## Purpose

This outline call qualifies you to submit a complete application for the call [Centre for Sustainable Area and Nature Use](#). The purpose is to mobilise project ideas and stimulate collaboration to develop competitive applications. It is mandatory to submit an outline. Applications for the main call must be based on one or more of the submitted outlines.

### SHORTCUTS

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# About the call for proposals

We are announcing up to NOK 452 million for up to four centres with a size of NOK 90-130 million per centre. The centres have a duration of up to eight years with allocation through two phases, and start-up in 2026.

The call is divided into two parts: Mandatory outline call (this call) and thereafter [Main call with deadline 12 November 2025](#).

[View the information webinar we held in April 2025](#) (in Norwegian).

It is mandatory to submit an outline. Applications for the main call that are not based on one or more submitted outlines will be rejected. Applicants must familiarise themselves with the Main call. The outline should, as far as possible, correspond to the purpose, priorities and delimitations described in the main call and relate to Requirements and guidelines - Centre for Sustainable and Nature Use (link forthcoming, document opens in a new window).

## What happens to the outlines?

The outline round is an open invitation to innovative centre ideas and will help to make applications for the main call more competitive.

The purpose of the outline call is to promote better coordination and collaboration between different research organisations that plan to submit applications. It is also intended to prevent applicants from investing unnecessary work in the application process.

The Research Council will distribute an overview of the outlines to all those who have submitted outlines, so that research groups can contact each other and possibly enter into collaboration on applications to the main call.

All sketches will receive a brief written feedback from the Research Council. The feedback will be a general assessment of the outlined centre's potential for a competitive application, and will not include a scientific assessment.

The call is available in both Norwegian and English. The text of the Norwegian call for proposals is legally binding.

Who is eligible to apply?

Approved Norwegian research organisations can submit outlines. [See the list of approved research organisations.](#)

Who can participate in the project?

### Requirements relating to the Project Owner

- The Project Owner must be an approved research organisation.
- The research organisation listed as the Project Owner in the application form must have approved the submission of the application.
- The Project Owner submits the application on behalf of all partners.

### Requirements relating to the project manager

- The project manager (centre director) must document experience from managing large, complex projects.
- The project manager must preferably be employed by the Project Owner, or alternatively by one of the Norwegian research partners.
- Availability and estimated time spent on the tasks of project manager, work package leaders and any other members of the centre management must be stated in the application.

The project manager and other project management's academic competence and suitability to carry out the project will be assessed by a panel.

### Requirements relating to partners

The research in the centre will be carried out in binding collaboration between relevant research organisations, actors in Norwegian trade and industry, the public sector and other societal actors. See a more detailed description of collaboration and roles in the document Requirements and guidelines - Centre for Sustainable Area and Nature Use (link to come).

- The centre must have at least two partners that are approved Norwegian research organisations, and

preferably more.

- The centre must have at least one foreign research partner, and preferably more.
- The centre must have at least three Norwegian partners that are not research organisations, these are referred to as user partners and may include the public sector, trade and industry and other societal actors.
- The application must be strategically supported by all partners.

All partners must actively contribute to the planning, follow-up and dissemination of results and to ensuring that new knowledge is put to use.

The centre will have a board where the majority of the members and the chairman of the board represent the user partners.

In addition to those mentioned above, the centre may have foreign user partners that are not research partners. These can however not receive funding from the research council and must not be listed as partners or be included in the budget tables in the application form. You must document how any foreign user partners will contribute to achieving the centre's goals in the project description.

We encourage the centre to have a reference group or similar to ensure a broader group of users and stakeholders.

A centre with a large number of user partners will place great demands on the organisation of the centre. In such cases, we encourage applicants to differentiate between actors who actively participate in research and actors who primarily participate as "listening posts", "problem owners" or similar. The first group may have the status of user partners and be included as partners in the consortium, while the latter group may have a looser connection to the centre, for example in the above-mentioned reference group, and not be part of the consortium itself.

This call does not allow for the use of R&D providers.

What can you seek funding for?

The call for proposals does not include any funding.

## Relevant thematic areas for this call

### Cross-cutting topics

## Practical information

### Requirements for this funding scheme

The outline can only be submitted once. It is not possible to edit submitted outlines. Therefore, do not press the "submit" button until the outline is completely finished and ready to be submitted. When you submit the outline, you will immediately receive an automatic confirmation that the outline has been received. It is your responsibility to ensure that your submission has been verified.

The outline must be created and submitted via My RCN Web. A separate template must be used. You can download this at the bottom of the call.

The outline can be written in Norwegian or English (note that the main application must be written in English).

The outline description and contact information are uploaded as one PDF file. The document should not exceed five pages, and it is not possible to upload more than this.

### Administrative procedures

All the outlines will be assessed administratively by the Research Council.

You will receive a brief written feedback on the outline. The feedback will focus on whether the outline satisfies the formal requirements for a centre for sustainable land use and nature use, and whether it falls within the purpose and framework of the call.

No applications will be excluded on the basis of the outline feedback. It is up to the applicant on an independent basis to assess whether or not you should prepare an application for the main call. Our feedback

on the outline therefore does not imply any obligation to process applications by the main application deadline. This means that the applicant is responsible for fulfilling all formal requirements in a main application.

An overview of the outline (title, abstract, Project Owner, Partners and contact persons) will be published to everyone who has submitted an outline within the submission deadline 11 June .

Feedback on outlines will be available by August 2025.

## Download templates



Mal - Obligatorisk skisse Senter for bærekraftig areal- og naturbruk.docx



★ MANDATORY ATTACHMENT

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Messages at time of print 20 June 2025, 08:23 CEST



### Important message

Unfortunately, My RCN web is unstable today. We are working to find the cause of this. Please try again in a few hours.